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## WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF PEGGY

By NETTIE STARR,

Andrews' good wishes beamed from

less advancement nor success in origin, latter's face lighted as he caught to digest her deunciatory edict. sight of Phillips and he approached, arm outstretched.

"A long life of happiness, old man! show them to you."

And after joyfully wringing his prit, Telephone 342. A. C. Aubrey, Prop. friend's and he hoped future patron's hand he, too, joined the hurrying throng crowding up the steps to the elevated. In his haste he did not Bros. note the cool reception of his good wishes. His felicitations had struck a tender spot, for they smacked of matrimony, or at least of an engagement.

> Phillips groaned inwardly whenever he thought about it. The night before, for the fortieth time, he had resolved to find out his fate; but the opportunity had come and gone, and the words were still unsaid. Somehow his nicely prepared speeches always vaporized when he came into her presence, and if pluck did take him far enough to speak concerning his feelings it was only to flounder belplessly around until the weather or some such impersonal subject let him easily down to earth again. Surely Irene knew what he was trying to say! Why, if she cared for him, had she given him so little help?

A suddenly-remembered engage ment turned his footsteps into the building he was passing. The elevator let him out at the seventh floor, and he found his friend still in his office. Henly turned at his entrance, The same smile adorned his features. He gripped his friend's fingers tightly.

"I knew it would come at last. Who did the proposing?" "What in thunder do you fellows

"Mean?" Henly's smile twisted itself into a surprised grin. "Why, your engagement to Irene Haskins, of

Phillips stared at him in amaze ment. Henly caught up a morning paper, searched through it hastily,

"Announcement is made of the enpopular young business man of the In a whisper she said:

Henly watched the blank expression in his companion's face.

"Weren't you going to have it announced for a while?" he chuckled, table, head buried in her arms, sat And then banteringly, "I hope you Irene, a picture of desolation. The

"I didn't-" and then stopped. " You're not? Somebody-well, it Box 951 chance, old boy. Know you want it eye to the opening between the curbut lacked courage to propose in the tains she excused her actions to herconventional way. If I were you, I'd elf, make tracks up there immediately.

It will be clear sailing now." After Hendy had left his friend he

thoroughly up workman-like work of admitted Phillips and ushered him into the library where a cheery grate fully. To miss and kiss her on the tire was burning. A hidden some nose!" She relapsed into laughter. thing made her dimples deeper. Oth- "Rene said she would never stand erwise in her external staidness there for that, but she did. I'd never have

aside and Irene stood framed by their found one worth while," she added, dark velvet softness. A surprised "Oh," escaped her and then an icy. SHORT STORIES OF "I beg your pardon; I didn't know it was you, Peggy said-Sir!" She drew back uttering the last in a frigid exclamation

Lawrence had sprung up at her on- per. trance.

lantly. "Glad?" she questioned. 'We are engaged," he finished.

"Since when?" ing to ask you for ages, but-I always has got to buy your ties from me at get tangled up. If you hadn't been 25 per cent advance or build a railroad angel enough to help me out-

"Sir?" he blundered.

Her voice rang with wrath. "You ac- but I own the banks." cuse me of such a thing? You put The contract was signed.

Congratulations. Phillips. Glad to that in yourself for you were too olg

thing I want you to understand; I dred millions of Chinese have decided the foreign record. Phillips searched vainly in his will have nothing to do with a man that dying with rifle or flintlock in A little more than 100 years ago mind for the cause of this unexpected who has not gumption cough to ask band is preferable to death with less Michaux, the great French botanist expression of joy. What reason had me straight out, but uses such a sub- than nothing in the stomach. he to be congratulated? Neither busi- terfuge and then accuses me of its in spite of the growth of trade in the founder of the science of arbori-

note the cool reception of his good hand caught his arm. A sharp girlish the results of this year's experiments voice spoke:

everyone will start so."

courage to propose to sister, so I the paper. You two certainly messed their liking. it up. 'Rene was so angry she was escaped her.

They walked on in silence, Peggy etaining a tight hold on his arm.

to take you back and you can try it over again.' She led him in the gate and up to

the porch where, when he showed signs of hesitating, she said: "Brace up. Your Rubicon lies be-

fore you.

And then she coached: "Don't be too stiff. Be penitent. Acknowledge it's all your fault. Tell her of the firmaments of devotion that are throttled up within you because of your stammering tongue-on your knees would be best, more impressive, I think."

She opened the front door softly, motioning him to keep silencethough he had not spoken except in found what he wanted and handed it had caught up with him. They cninarticulate protestations since she to his friend, indicating the parabade him to remain there. Stealthly gagement of Miss Irene Heloise Has- tieres and reconnoitered. Satisfied, kins and Mr. Lawrence Phillips, a she beckoned the man to approach.

> "You two are not coming out until you settle this matter."

Drawing back the curtain she pushed him into the room. At the girl carefully closed the curtains behind the man, and walked audibly looks as if she were giving you your a moment later. As she applied her down the hall only to return silently

"I'll see it through this time."

Judging by the first dissatisfied exbegan to think. "It'll do the trick, was not proceeding happily. Then, but it isn't at all like Irene Haskins. after a time, her big ribbon bows Lust resort, maybe. It's strange slowly nodded in approval, A moabout Phillips; pluck clear to the ment later she was fleeing on tipice bone in everything except in his woo down the hall, her finger tips on her lips. In her room she allowed her

"He did it but he did it so dreadwas for her almost a suspicious done it, though," She addressed the Phillips had only a few minutes to think I could get a man to propose sllm figure in the glass. "But then I wait before the portiers were brushed without so much bother-if I ever

THE BUSINESS WORLD (Continued from page eleven.)

second time Hake almost lost his tem-

"You fellows," he fairly yelled, "tied "I'm so glad--" he began jubi- me up with an option and then went to work to get possession of some of my plans and throw me to my knees where I would have to take anything you felt disposed to offer or lose out. "I know I'm a duffer. I've been try- I tell you right now that your company 35 miles long over into the next county to hanl your logs. There was a "The announcement in the paper," time when you could raft them down the river to Moundvi'le, but that's past. "Lawrence Phillips, how dare you?" The water is still there and it's free,

It seems to be certain that what-

Indian and Ceylon tea, China remains culture in this country, successfully the late Charles Battell Loomis, other lines had come to him of late. With eyes fairly scintillating scorn the great source of the tea consumed planted the first tea in the United At the corner he met Hunt. The she swept from the room, leaving him in America. Japan is going back rel- States. This was at Middleton Bar- gay," the editor said. "He was a humatively in the contest for American ony on the Ashley river, about fifteen orist. He looked at every subject from For a few moments he stood con-dollars spent for the herb leaves. But fronting the closed curtains, and then there is a prospect that soon we shall first American to see the commercial he stumbled into the hall and out be drinking tea brewed not from Chi- possibilities of tea growing in Amer- financier of somewhat doubtful repute Say, I've some ideal building sites into the street. He had made a bun- nese or Japanese or Indian or Ceylon ica was, appropriately, a native of the I said to Loomis: Pall Road, 32 miles; Railway, 78 miles in Birdylew Addition, patriarchial gle of it. Of course Irene never would or Formosan leaves, but tea which is famous in American "He was a bad egg, but nobody trees, green sward and all of that have done it. Who could have in shall be the products of plants grown blacker for the leaves, and the was a bad egg, but nobody trees, green sward and all, of that have done it. Who could have in shall be the products of plants grown history for throwing foreign ten over- seemed to think so as long as he had Come around and I'll be delighted to serted that paragraph? Was it only a right here on the soil of America. It board. This was Junius Smith, who money. joke? His mind searched for the cul- is not exactly news that American was born in Plymouth, Mass. But he "Naturally, said Loomis; for, like soil can grow tea, for experiments lived only a few years after he began most bad eggs, he was all right till He was striding along, head down, have demonstrated that fact amply his work, and his plantation went to he was broke." unmindful of the curious glances of for a century or more. But it is rethe f w he met. He did not hear the ported currently that the department hurried, pattering steps till a slim of agriculture is highly pleased with with tea farming. On the hundred "Well, you two have done it now, acres in South Carolina, where the Walk back a moment with me. Please bureau of plan industry, one of the don't look so like a thundercloud; divisions of the department, is making the experiments, 12,000 pounds of Their course changed. Peggy con- tea, worth at current rates fully \$1 a pound, were produced this year. I knew you would never pluck up American tea is good tea, better than most of that which reaches the Amerthought I would help you out. It was lean markete after long sea voyages, who had the announcement put in and some experts find it greatly to

As has been written, the tea peant just shaking, said you accused her of has been grown in this country long doing it; and you-you certainly enough to feel quite at home. In at looked squelched." A girlish giggle least two states, South Carolina and Texas, experiments have been made looking toward the production of the leaves on a commercial scale. Con-"I told Irene I did it, and she be- trary to the general belief, tea is not gan to shed tears. Said I'd ruined a tropical or even a semi-tropical her life," the girl sniffed. "I'm going plant, and its cultivation may be

risked safely where the temperature falls below 24 degrees F. and never falls below zero, and where the annual rainfall exceeds fifty inches. Thirty inches or more of the precipitation must occur during the cropping season, which begins about the 1st of May and continues until about the middle of October. The department bulletin says "the climate of the southern and gulf states is in general admirably adapted to the cultivation of the tea plant."

to the acre is only about 120 pounds. This showing compares very unfavor-

who studied American trees and was miles west of Charleston, S. C. The the humorous point of view.

Much of the tea grown in China is years the government has sent men planted in the corners and waste to Asia for seeds and cuttings of the places of farms. Although the depart- tea plant and has encouraged and conment reports its encouragement, it ducted experiments in the United nust be noted that our average crop States. The first were made in South Carolina and Georgia soil, and the ably with 900 pounds or more pro have also been tested. But the interduced on an acre of good tea produc- est in American growing of tea has a coward to ask me and thought you ever happens in any part of the world ing soil in China and India. Four always centered in South Carolina, had found an easy way. Maybe you to disturb settled conditions that years ago the department prided itself the soil of that state being adapted have and maybe you have not. You same thing helps to send up the cost on the fact that in a South Carolina especially well to the cultivation of may have the pleasure of reporting to, of living in the United States. Now tea garden 535 pounds of dried tea the leaves. Dr. Charles U. Shepard ife halted a moment in his mad flight the News that it is all a mistake, and we are threatened with a rise in the were grown to the acre in a single is the man who has done most in for his car and vigorously pumped liable, too, to be so for all time. One price of tea, just because a few hun- season, but even this was far behind recent years to advance American

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